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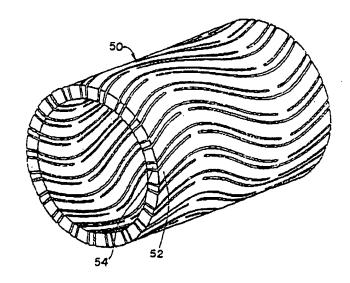
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

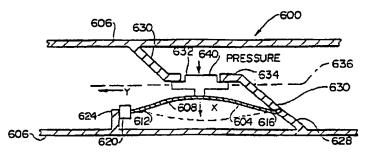
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(54) Title: BISTABLE SPRING CONSTRUCTION FOR A STENT AND OTHER MEDICAL APPARATUS

(57) Abstract

The present invention is directed to bistable cells and their use in devices, particularly medical devices such as stents, clamps and valves. An expandable stent formed of a plurality of bistable cells is described. The stent has two or more stable configurations, including a first stable configuration with a first diameter and a second stable configuration with a second, larger diameter. A valve comprising a bistable cell for use in eliminating incontinence is also disclosed.





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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 A61F2/06 A61E A61B17/11 A61F2/00 F16K31/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 6 A61F A61B F16K F16L Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category 3 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. WO 96 18359 A (FOUERE) 20 June 1996 1,11-13, 17-21, 28-33 see abstract; figures 1,2 χ WO 95 09584 A (GUERBET) 13 April 1995 1,11-13, 21, 28-33, 55-57 Υ see page 9, line 26 - page 10, line 12; 58 X WO 96 09013 A (WAKE FOREST INIVERSITY) 28 1,11-13,March 1996 30 - 33see abstract; figures 10,14 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. * Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but in the art. later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of theinternational search Date of mailing of the international search report 16.09*9*8 4 September 1998 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel.-(+31-70)-340-2040,-Tx: 31 651 epo nl; Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Neumann, E

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

BoxI	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inte	ernational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X	Claims Nos.: 48-50 60-64 72 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
	Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2.	Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3.	Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)
This Inte	mational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
	see additional sheet
1. X	As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2.	As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3.	As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4	No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
Remark o	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. X No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-36, 54-58

A medical device containing at least one unit cell with one relatively flexible segment and one relatively rigid segment

1.1 Claims 1,2,5-29

A unit cell with symmetrical load-displacement

1.2 Claims 1,3,5-29

A unit cell with asymmetrical load-displacement characteristic, most stable in expanded state

1.3....Claims 1.4-29...

A unit cell with asymmetrical load-displacement characteristic, most stable in collapsed state

1.4 Claims 30-36

A medical device with a multistable spring system

1.5 Claim 1,54

A clamp

1.6 Claims 55-58

A graft stent with expansion rings

2. Claims: 37-47,65

A stent with a negativ spring constant

3. Claim: 51

A stent with a plurality of diameters

4. Claims: 52, 53

An expandable device

5. Claim: 59

A stent with wavelike members

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

6. Claims: 66-71

A bistable valve

7. Claims: 73-77

A medical device with a cell with four rigid segments

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